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**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Pharmaceutical compositions are described containing a long pentraxin PTX3, particularly human PTX3, for the therapy of infectious and inflammatory or tumour diseases; expression vectors containing cDNA coding for PTX3; recombinant host cells transfected with such vectors; a method for producing substantial amounts of PTX3 involving the culturing of such cells, and the use of said vectors in the gene therapy of tumours.

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